

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2436

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T JAKARTA 6327

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, ID, VS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE INDONESIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM ICCS

REF: A. STATE 105088; B. JAKARTA 6212; C. STATE 106029;

D. JAKARTA 6113; E. JAKARTA 5920

1. I CALLED ON ACTING FONMIN (JUSTICE MIN) MOCHTAR KUSUMAATMADJA MAY 22 AND DELIVERED ACTING SECRETARY RUSH'S LETTER TO FONMIN MALIK OFFERING TO SEND DEPUTY LEGAL ADVISOR GEORGE ALDRICH TO JAKARTA FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS RE ICCS (REFS A, B,C). IN ADDITION I GAVE MOCHTAR BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON ALDRICH WHICH STRESSED ROLE HE PLAYED IN PARIS NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO VIET NAM CEASEFIRE, AND HAVE SENT COPIES OF SECRETARY'S LETTER AND LADRICH BIO TO STATE SECRETARY SUDHARMONO WHO ACTS AS CHANNEL TO PRESIDENT SUAHRTO.

2. MOCHTAR WELCOMED OFFER AND STATED THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS IT PERSONALLY WITH FONMIN MALIK UPON LATTER'S RETURN, WHICH SCHEDULED FOR MAY 24.

3. IN DISCUSSING SUBJECT OF INDONESIAN ROLE IN ICCS, MOCHTAR SHED SOME ADDED LIGHT ON EVENTS PROCEEDING STATEMENT THAT INDONESIA MIGHT WITHDRAW. MOCHTAR STATED THAT AFTER RETIREMENT OF GEN SUMITRO AND CHANGED ROLE OF SECURITY COMMAND (KOPKAMTIB), GEN DHARSONO IN SAIGON

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FELT HE WAS ISOLATED WITH NO ONE IN JAKARTA RESPONDING

TO HIS INQUIRES. THEN DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE CHIEF (AND RUMORED FUTURE REPLACEMENT OF DHARSONO) CHARIS SUHUD VISITED SAIGON AND RETURNED WITH A REPORT ON ICCS (MOCHTAR DID NOT CHARACTERIZE IT, BUT FROM CONTEXT OF HIS REMARKS REPORT WAS CLEARLY NEGATIVE). MOCHTAR, WHO WAS THEN ACTING FONMIN, PERSUADED MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO RECALL DHARSONO FOR A DIRECT REPORT FROM HIM. DHARSONO RETURNED AND MADE A REPORT WHICH INDICATED THAT, WHILE FRUSTRATING, INDONESIA'S ROLE IN ICCS BECOMING SOMEWHAT LESS DIFFICULT AS IRANIANS OBTAINED BETTER GRASP OF SITUATION AND TOOK A FIRMER STANCE WITH COMMUNISTS. (IN AN ASIDE MOCHTAR ADDED INDONESIANS HAD THOUGHT OF APPEALING TO SHAH TO BUCK UP IRANIAN DEL, IMPLYING THIS NO LONGER NECESSARY.) AS IS WELL KNOWN, DHARSONO MADE A GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC EVALUATION AT THE ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING AS WELL AS IN INTRA-GOI DISCUSSIONS.

4. GIVEN ABOVE, MOCHTAR STATED HE FRANKLY SURPRISED WHEN AT MAY 14 MEETING OF SECURITY STABILIZATION COUNCIL PRESIDENT SUHARTO HAD TAKEN HARD LINE HE DID (REF E). WHILE ASSERTING THAT AS SUNDANESE HE UNABLE FATHOM FULLY JAVANESE (READ SUHARTO) PSYCHOLOGY, MOCHTAR HYPOTHESIZED THAT GOI WARNING IT MIGHT WITHDRAW (REF E) MIGHT HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO ELICIT REQUESTS THAT IT NOT DO SO FROM COMMUNIST SIDE, SUCH AS NVN HAS APPARENTLY ISSUED (REF D). IF SO, HE CONTINUED, STATEMENT ISSUED MAY 20 BY FONDEPT SPOKESMAN THAT INDONESIA WILL NOT WITHDRAW FROM ICCS SO LONG AS HER PRESENCE DESIRED BY US, SVN, NVN AND PRG MAY INDICATE THAT THREAT TO LEAVE IS FOR MOMENT WITHDRAWN. (MOCHTAR WAS UNCHARACTERISTICALLY VAGUE ABOUT EXACT MEANING OF STATEMENT ISSUED BY SPOKESMAN UNDER HIS AUTHORITY, IMPLYING STATEMENT MAY HAVE COME FROM HIGHER HEADQUARTERS, SUCH AS PALACE.)

5. COMMENT: WHATEVER MYSTICAL JAVANESE PROCESS HAS BROUGHT IN RAPID SUCCESSION THREAT TO WITHDRAW, FAVORABLE READING OF CONVOLUTED HANOI STATEMENT, AND SUBSEQUENT ANNOUNCED GOI DECISION TO STAY IN ICCS, I
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FEEL WE HAVE NOT HEARD LAST OF PROBLEM. IRANIAN THREAT IN NOTE TO NVN WILL NOT HELP. I BELIEVE MESSAGE FROM ACTING SECRETARY HELPFUL AND TIMELY BOTH FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE. WE THINK IT LIKELY ALDRICH WILL BE INVITED. IN SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE WE WILL PRESENT EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATIONS RE HIS MISSION.
NEWSOM

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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